



# **Transitioning California to a New Assessment and Accountability System**

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## **Presentation to California Teachers Association State Council**

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Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction  
April 6, 2013**



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State Superintendent  
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# Transitioning California to a Future Assessment System

- Superintendent Torlakson required to provide the Legislature with assessment recommendations
- Report of recommendations delivered to the Legislature and Governor on January 8, 2013



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# Setting the Foundation for the Recommendations

- Recognize assessment is an integral part of a cycle of standards, curriculum, and instruction.
- Recommend a system that promotes and models high quality teaching and learning.
- Consider the role the state should play in the assessment system and the value of local control.
- Recognize the current fiscal climate, but also the investment opportunity.



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# SSPI Recommendations

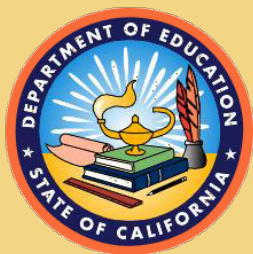
1. Beginning in the 2013-14 school year, suspend portions of the STAR Program assessments and adjust the Academic Performance Index to reflect suspension of such assessments.
2. Beginning in the 2014-15 school year, fully implement the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) English language arts (ELA) and mathematics assessments.
3. Use the grade eleven SBAC ELA and mathematics assessments as an indicator of college readiness.
4. Develop and administer science assessments aligned to the new science standards, once adopted.
5. Develop or use multistate consortia alternate assessments in ELA, mathematics, and science for students with severe cognitive disabilities.



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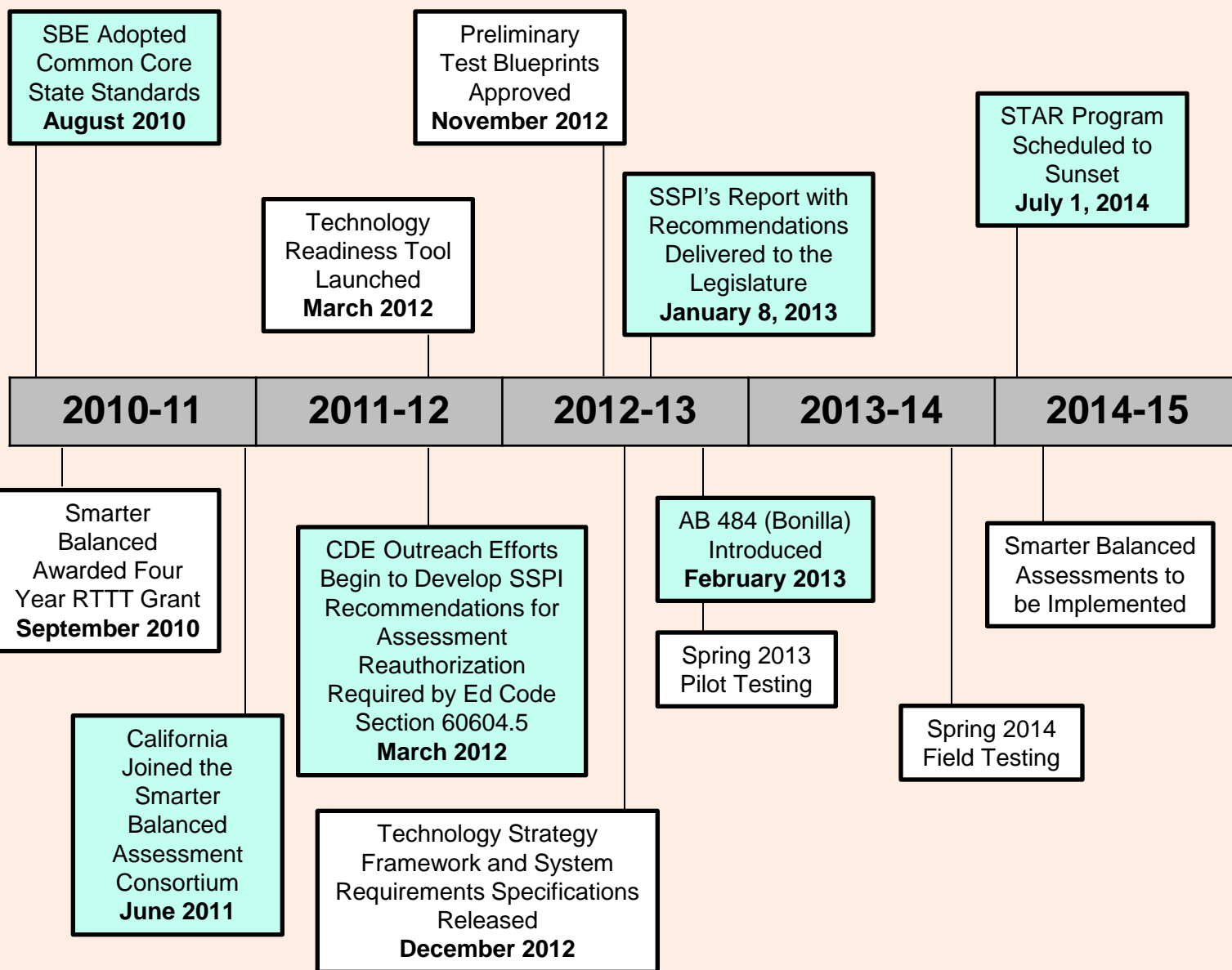
# SSPI Recommendations

6. Determine the continued need and purpose of academic assessments in languages other than English once the SBAC assessments are operational.
7. Assess the full curriculum using assessments that model high-quality teaching and learning activities.
8. Invest in interim, diagnostic, and formative tools.
9. Consider alternatives to the current California High School Exit Examination.
10. Explore the possible use of matriculation examinations.
11. Conduct comparability studies.
12. Maintain a continuous cycle of improvement of the assessment system.



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# Transition Milestones





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# Smarter Balanced Spring 2013 Pilot Test

- February 20-May 24, 2013
- Grades 3-11 in English-language arts and mathematics
- Over one million students are scheduled to participate (over 360,000 students in over 1400 schools from California)
- Computer based
- Approximately 5,000 items are being tested
- No scores/results will be released publicly



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# Smarter Balanced Practice Test

- Formerly called the Volunteer Pilot Test
- Will be available to all schools, districts, parents, policymakers, and other stakeholders
- Access will begin May 29, 2013
- Access will continue until implementation of operational assessments





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# Smarter Balanced Practice Test

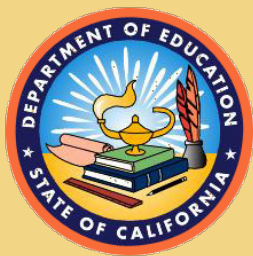
- Complete test forms will be used
  - One test form for each grade and content area
  - Will follow the test blueprints
- Access to accommodations
  - Text-to-speech
  - Item-level pop-up Spanish glossaries for construct-irrelevant terms (Math test only)
  - Braille
  - American Sign Language



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# Smarter Balanced Spring 2014 Field Test

- Approximately 35,000 items will be tested
- Participation of 5-6 million students expected across member states
- Computer-adaptive component
- Smarter Balanced is exploring options for providing some level of results to participating schools



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# Draft Initial Achievement Level Descriptors (ALDs)

- Articulate the knowledge and skills expected of students at different levels of performance.
- Development began in October 2012 with a convening of educators from member states, and drafts were released for two public comment periods.
- Governing states approved the initial ALDs in March 2013.
- Available on the Smarter Balanced Web site at <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/achievementlevel-descriptors-and-college-readiness>.



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# Accessibility and Accommodations Policy Framework

- Provides guidance on how the accessibility needs of English learners and students with disabilities will be met through item design and delivery methods for a digital environment as well as by local staff.
- Developed with input from experts in the assessment of English learners and students with disabilities as well as experts in computer adaptive testing.
- Expected to be released for public review and comment in May 2013.



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# Digital Library of Formative Assessment Tools and Practices

An interactive teacher professional development tool which will include resources such as documents, videos, formative assessment tools, sample summative/interim test items, and a work area to guide teachers to identify and use the best resources for their needs.



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# Digital Library of Formative Assessment Tools and Practices

- Contract work began in March 2013
- Digital library expected to be launched in spring 2014
- Smarter Balanced will convene a national panel of experts in formative practices to develop policy to guide the development and selection of resources



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# Digital Library of Formative Assessment Tools and Practices

- **Upcoming opportunity for teacher involvement!** Each Smarter Balanced member state to form a State Network of Educators (SNE) to review proposed resources for inclusion in the digital library.
  - CDE will recruit approximately 150 California educators for the SNE
  - Recruitment expected to begin in spring 2013



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# Implementing New Assessment and Accountability Systems

- AB 484 – implementing the Superintendent's recommendations
- SB 1458 – expanding the accountability system beyond test scores
- Quality schools are more than a single test score





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# For Further Information

## CDE Transition and SBAC Office

[sbac@cde.ca.gov](mailto:sbac@cde.ca.gov)

916-445-8517

## Technology Readiness Coordinator

[sbac-itreadiness@cde.ca.gov](mailto:sbac-itreadiness@cde.ca.gov)

## CDE Smarter Balanced Web Page

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/smarterbalanced.asp>

## Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium Web Site

<http://www.smarterbalanced.org/>